

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of updating security configurations of a plurality of servers, comprising:
changing security information in a centralized server;
10 receiving an update command; and
downloading the changed security information to the plurality of servers in response to receiving the update command, wherein the downloaded changed security information is used to update the security configurations
15 of the plurality of servers.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of servers are Windows NT servers and the centralized server is a directory server.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the centralized server is a directory server and wherein changing the security information includes using an editor to change a directory listing in the centralized server.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the security configurations of the plurality of servers are updated by updating security parameter lists associated with a plurality of files and/or resources associated with each
30 of the plurality of servers.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the security parameter lists identify authorized users or authorized groups of users of the files and/or resources associated with the security parameter lists.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the update command is received from a network administrator.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the update command is received at scheduled periodic times.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the update command is received from one or more of the plurality of servers.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the centralized server is a light weight directory access protocol server.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein downloading the changed security information includes filtering a directory listing stored on the centralized server to extract the changed security information.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the security configurations are updated by filtering the downloaded changed security information to extract only necessary update information for updating the security configurations and then updating the security configurations based on the extracted necessary update information.
12. A security configuration update server for updating

security configurations of a plurality of servers,
comprising:

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a controller;
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a network interface coupled to the controller; and

5 a storage device coupled to the controller, wherein
the controller, in response to receiving an update
command, downloads security information stored in the
storage device to the plurality of servers via the
network interface, wherein the downloaded security
10 information is used to update the security configurations
of the plurality of servers.

13. The security configuration update server of claim
12, wherein the plurality of servers are Windows NT
15 servers and the security configuration update server is a
directory server.

14. The security configuration update server of claim 12, wherein the update command includes changes to the security information.

15. The security configuration update server of claim 12, wherein the security configurations of the plurality of servers are updated by updating security parameter lists associated with a plurality of files and/or resources associated with each of the plurality of servers.

16. The security configuration update server of claim
30 15, wherein the security parameter lists identify
authorized users or authorized groups of users of the
files and/or resources associated with the security

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parameter lists.

17. The security configuration update server of claim
12, wherein the update command is received from a network
5 administrator.

18. The security configuration update server of claim
12, wherein the update command is received at scheduled
periodic times.

10

19. The security configuration update server of claim
12, wherein the update command is received from one or
more of the plurality of servers.

15 20. The security configuration update server of claim
12, wherein the security configuration update server is a
light weight directory access protocol server.

20 21. The security configuration update server of claim
12, wherein downloading the changed security information
includes filtering a directory listing stored in the
storage device to extract the changed security
information.

25 22. The security configuration update server of claim
12, wherein the security configurations are updated by
filtering the downloaded security information to extract
only necessary update information for updating the
security configurations and then updating the security
30 configurations based on the extracted necessary update
information.

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23. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for updating security configurations of a plurality of servers, comprising:

first instructions for changing security information
5 in a centralized server;

second instructions for receiving an update command;
and

third instructions for downloading the changed security information to the plurality of servers in response to receiving the update command, wherein the downloaded changed security information is used to update the security configurations of the plurality of servers.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein
15 the centralized server is a directory server and wherein
the first instructions include instructions for using an
editor to change a directory listing in the centralized
server.

20 25. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein
the third instructions include instructions for updating
security parameter lists associated with a plurality of
files and/or resources associated with each of the
plurality of servers.

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26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the security parameter lists identify authorized users or authorized groups of users of the files and/or resources associated with the security parameter lists.

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27. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the update command is received from a network

[illegible]

administrator.

28. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein
the update command is received at scheduled periodic
5 times.

29. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the update command is received from one or more of the plurality of servers.

30. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the centralized server is a light weight directory access protocol server.

15 31. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein
the third instructions include instructions for filtering
a directory listing stored on the centralized server to
extract the changed security information.

20 32. A method in a data processing system for updating
access information for a plurality of servers, the method
comprising:

collecting changes to access information at the data
processing system to form modified access information;

25 and

responsive to a policy, transferring the modified access information to the plurality of servers, wherein the modified access information is used to update the security configurations of the plurality of servers.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the policy comprises receiving a request to update the security configurations

for the plurality of servers.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the policy comprises
periodically initiating transfer of modified access
5 information to the plurality of servers.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein the policy comprises
initiating the transfer of the modified access
information to the plurality of servers in response to a
10 selected event.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the selected event
is a periodic event.

37. A data processing system, comprising:
a centralized server; and
a plurality of servers coupled to the centralized
server by at least one network, wherein the centralized
server stores security information, and wherein when the
20 centralized server receives an update command, the
security information stored in the centralized server is
downloaded to at least one of the plurality of servers,
the downloaded security information being used by the at
least one of the plurality of servers to update the
25 security configurations of the at least one of the
plurality of servers.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the plurality of
servers are Windows NT servers and the centralized server
30 is a directory server.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein the security

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configuration of the at least one of the plurality of
servers is updated by updating a security parameter list
associated with a one or more files and/or resources
associated with the at least one of the plurality of
5 servers.

40. The system of claim 37, wherein the security information is filtered by the centralized server, prior to downloading the security information, to extract only security information that has been changed.

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